

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 07487 071210Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 ACDA-12 IO-14 SSM-05 /099 W  
-----078777 071630Z /45

R 070834Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5883  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 7487

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: SOPN, SY  
SUBJ: SYRIAN MEDIA LAUDS RESULTS OF TRIPOLI CONFERENCE

1. DEC. 6 DAMASCUS MEDIA LED WITH REPORTS OF ASSAD'S RETURN FROM TRIPOLI AND PRINTED VERBATIM THE CONFERENCE'S FINAL COMMUNIQUE. PICTURES OF ASSAD WITH FELLOW ARAB LEADERS OTHER THAN IRAQIS SPLASHED ON ALL FRONT PAGES AND ON INSIDE PAGES AS WELL. THE FRONT PAGE STORIES REPORT EGYPT'S EXPULSION FROM THE CONFEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS. BAATH CARRIES SMALL BOX REPORTING EGYPT'S SEVERENCE OF DIPLOMAT RELATIONS WITH SYRIA AND OTHER STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE. PRESS ALSO INDIRECTLY ATTACKED IRAQ BY CARRYING ON FRONT PAGES STATEMENTS BY PFLP-GC LEADER AHMAD JIBRIL QUESTIONING IRAQ'S MOTIVES IN PULLING OUT OF THE TRIPOLI CONFERENCE. PRESS, HOWEVER, IS CIRCUMSPECT ABOUT PREDICTING TANGIBLE

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RESULTS EMANATING FROM CONFERENCE AND GENERALLY AVOIDS TERMS THAT EVEN HINT OF A REJECTIONIST STAND. INDICATIVE OF TERMINOLOGY IS BAATH HEADLINE: "FORMATION OF A NATIONAL FRONT FOR OPPOSITION AND RESISTANCE (SAMUD)."

2. LEAD EDITORIAL IN AL-BAATH PROTRAYS SYRIA "IN THE VANGUARD IN DEFENDING THE ARAB CAUSE" AND BOASTS THAT THE

"UNIFIED FRONT" SET UP BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE PLO AND NOW WON THE BACKING OF THE TRIPOLI SUMMIT STATES. OTHER ARAB STATES ARE CALLED UPON TO COME ON BOARD AND HOPE IS EXPRESSED THAT TRIPOLI RESOLUTIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED. THAWAR EDITORIAL IN SIMILAR VEIN ALSO TAKES IMPLIED SWIPE AT IRAQ IN CLAIMING THAT TRIPOLI SUMMIT SORTED OUT THE STANDS OF VARIOUS ARAB PARTIES AND SHOWED "WHO IS FOR SUBMISSION EVEN IF CONCEALED BEHIND VERBAL REJECTION," AND WHO IS FOR PEACE WHICH SAFEGARDS ARAB RIGHTS AND INSURES LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORY." US DOES NOT ESCAPE EITHER AND IS CHARGED IN SAME EDITORIAL WITH LEADING THE FORCES HOSTILE TO THE ARAB NATION. TRIPOLI CONFERENCE CHARACTERIZED AS FIRST STEP IN CONFRONTING "CAPITULATION."

3. COMMENT: BY AND LARGE SYRIAN MEDIA HAS CONTENTED ITSELF WITH EXPRESSING SATISFACTION AT THE CONFERENCE'S RESULTS. HIGHLIGHTING SYRIA'S CENTRAL ROLE IN CONFRONTING "CAPITULATIONIST POLICIES," AND CALLING UPON OTHER ARAB STATES TO RALLY BEHIND THE NEW FRONT. ALL EDITORIALS AND ANALYSES ARE DEVOID OF ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW THE TRIPOLI RESOLUTIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE TRANSLATED INTO EFFECTIVE ACTION AND RESTRICT THEMSELVES TO EXPRESSING HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE ACTED UPON.

MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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